AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A computer system adapted to play an audio CD, said computer system comprising:

a computer subsystem comprising a system CPU, a digital-audio generating circuit, a digital computer bus coupling said CPU and said digital-audio generator circuit, and a digital computer bus controller; and

a CD audio subsystem comprising an audio device capable of playing an audio CD and coupled to said digital computer bus controller, an audio amplifier circuit coupled to said audio device, and an audio interface coupled to said digital computer bus in parallel to said digital computer bus controller;

said audio interface being adapted to generate signals to operate said audio device and play said audio CD when power is not being supplied to said computer subsystem, wherein said audio interface is isolated from said digital computer bus when power is being supplied to said computer subsystem.

2.   (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said audio interface comprises output control logic selectively coupling said audio interface to said digital computer bus.

3.   (Original) A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said output control logic generates commands and/or data to said digital computer bus.

4.   (Original) A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said output control logic receives commands and/or data from said audio device.

5.   (Cancelled)

6.   (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said digital computer bus is an IDE bus.

7.   (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said audio device is selected from the group consisting of CD-ROM drive, DVD drive, hard drive, removable IDE media device, and fixed IDE media device.

8.   (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising one more interface switches for human control of said audio device, said switches electrically coupled to said audio interface and generating signals to said audio interface and causing said audio interface to generate control signals for operation of said audio device.

9. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a display coupled to said audio interface for displaying the track number of said CD.

10. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said interface switches comprise buttons accessibly mounted on said computer system and coupled to said audio interface so as to permit human control over said audio device.

11. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 8, wherein activation of one of said interface switches, when power is not being supplied to said computer subsystem, generates a signal to said audio interface thereby activating said audio interface.

12. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 10, wherein said buttons include functionality selected from the group of one or more of play, fast-forward, rewind, next track, previous track, pause and stop.

13. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein a 5 Volt power rail is supplied to said digital computer bus controller when electrostatic discharge diode protection is employed in said digital computer bus controller.

14. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 13, further comprising a power switch adapted to deliver said 5 Volt power rail to said digital computer bus controller.

15. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 14, wherein said power switch further turns one or more of the components selected from the group of: said audio device, said audio interface, and one or more portions of said CD audio subsystem.

16. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said audio interface is integrated directly into a bus bridge, wherein said bus bridge comprises said digital computer bus controller.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer system adapted to play an audio CD, said computer system comprising:

a computer subsystem comprising a system CPU, a digital-audio generating circuit, a digital computer bus coupling said CPU and said digital-audio generator circuit, and a digital computer bus controller; and

a CD audio subsystem comprising an audio device capable of playing an audio CD and coupled to said digital computer bus controller, an audio amplifier circuit coupled to said audio device,

and an audio interface coupled to said digital computer bus in parallel to said digital computer bus controller;

said audio interface being adapted to generate signals to operate said audio device and play said audio CD when power is not being supplied to said CPU, wherein said audio interface is isolated from said digital computer bus when power is being supplied to said CPU.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for playing an audio CD in a computer system, said method comprising:

deenergizing a computer CPU; [[and]]

controlling using an audio interface circuit coupled to a digital computer bus in parallel to a digital computer bus controller, an audio device and a computer audio amplifier to play an audio CD without supplying energy to said CPU; and

isolating said audio interface from said digital computer bus when power is being supplied to said CPU.

19. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising providing controlling the operation of said audio device using at least one interface switch.

20. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising generating commands and/or data to said digital computer bus.

21. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising receiving commands and/or data from said audio device.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising visually displaying track information about said audio CD.

24. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein activation of one of said interface switches, when power is not being supplied to said computer subsystem, generates a signal to said audio interface thereby activating said audio interface.

25. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising supplying a 5 Volt power rail to said digital computer bus controller.

26. (Currently Amended) An integrated bus controller, comprising:
A digital bus controller for exchanging commands and data between two or more data buses in a computer system; and

an audio interface IC comprising output control logic

selectively coupling said IC to at least one of said data buses;

wherein said audio interface IC, when coupled to said at least

one of said data buses, is coupled to said at least one of said data

buses in parallel with said digital bus controller and is operable to

control an audio device capable of playing an audio CD,

wherein said output control logic selectively couples said

audio interface IC to said at least one of said data buses based on

whether or not a CPU coupled to said at least one of said data buses

is energized, and

wherein said audio interface IC is isolated from said at least

one of said data buses when power is being supplied to said CPU.

27.   (Cancelled)

28.   (Currently Amended) A bus controller as claimed in claim [[27]] 26,

wherein said output control logic generates commands and/or data

to said at least one of said data buses.

29.   (Currently Amended) A bus controller as claimed in claim [[27]] 26,

wherein said output control logic receives commands and/or data

from said audio device.

30.   (Cancelled)

31.   (Original) A bus controller as claimed in claim 26, wherein said at least one of said data buses is an IDE bus.

32.   (Original) A bus controller as claimed in claim 26, wherein said audio device is selected from the group consisting of CD-ROM drive, DVD drive, hard drive, removable IDE media device, and fixed IDE media device.

33.   (Original) A bus controller as claimed in claim 26, said IC adapted to receive signals from one more interface switches for human control of said audio device, said switches electrically coupled to said IC and generating signals to said IC and causing said IC to generate control signals for operation of said audio device.

34.   (Original) A bus controller as claimed in claim 26, said IC adapted to transmit to a display coupled to said IC the track number of said CD.

35.   (Original) A bus controller as claimed in claim 33, wherein said IC is capable of being activated by activation of one of said interface

switches, when power is not being supplied to a CPU coupled to said

at least one of said data buses.